Tlapohualiztli

a piece for Bass Bb Clarinet

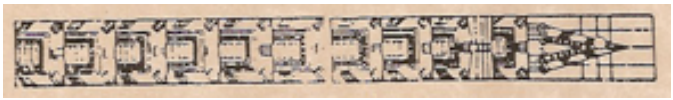
by

Juan Luis de Pablo Enríquez Rohen

a Harry Sparnaay

UNAM, México, DF

2001



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Tlapohualiztli

Notes

Since my first musical studies I have been inclined to find a relationship between the celestial bodies and the musical notes. This to say that my recent work is based on a symmetrical scale that connects itself to the possible relationship between the celestial bodies and music.

The ancient indigenous people of Mexico were very active in recording the movement of the celestial bodies. This has inspired me to relate each celestial body of our Solar System and the seven types of stars with the first thirteen *tlapohualiztli*.

Tlapohualiztli means numbers in *nahuatl*, the tongue of the people of central Mexico.

The first thirteen numbers are:

Ce. Ome. Yei. Nahui. Macuilli. Chicoace. Chicome. Chicueyi. Chicnahui. Matalhtli. Matlahtli ihuan Ce. Matlahtli ihuan Ome. Matlahtli ihuan Yey.

This numbers are included in the calendar to explain and count time. Each of them mean something special and their understanding has been transmitted for many generations since their origin with the *Olmec, Maya, Toltec* and *Teotihuacan* cultures.

In this piece, the solo clarinet figures a versatile bird that sings and finds the significance of the *tlapohualiztli* and tells of the beauty of our solar house and its neighbor stars.

All the movements share the same meter and the same tempo.

To understand the significance of each number it might be pertinent to consult the writings of the maestro, Arturo Mesa Gutiérrez and see the next table.

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Table of significance of the first thirteen *tlapohualiztli*:

Ce.	One. Source. Origin. Unity of the observed body.
Ome.	Two. Duality. Consistency. Bone structure.
Yei.	Three. Vitality. Animosity. Blood as precious liquid.
Nahui.	Four. Double duality. Reconcile. Skin as integration.
Macuilli.	Five. Centrality. Realization. A hand, as a first finished count.
Chicoace.	Six. Integration. Introspection. The analysis of a new beginning.
Chicome.	Seven. Concern. Transformation. Cosmic circled dances.
Chicoeyi.	Eight. Development. Growth: Constant learning.
Chicnahui.	Nine. Search. Centrality. Regenerated energy.
Matlahtli.	Ten. Achievement. Equilibrium Awakening of the senses.
Matlahtli huan ce.	Eleven. Rest. Pleasure. Rest in evolution to continue.
Matlahtli huan ome.	Twelve. Clarity. Beauty. Creativity and sensibility.
Matlahtli huan yei.	Thirteen. Knowledge. Harmony. Tenacity and commitment.

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Relationship of the first thirteen *tlapohualiztli* with the celestial bodies and stars:

Ce.	Solar System
Ome.	Mercury
Yei.	Venus
Nahui.	Earth/Moon
Macuilli.	Mars
Chicoace.	Vulcan (asteroids)
Chicome.	Jupiter/Comets/Moons
Chicoeyi.	Saturn
Chicnahui.	Uranus
Matlahtli.	Neptune
Matlahtli huan ce.	Kuiper Belt (Asteroids)
Matlahtli huan ome.	Exterior comets
Matlahtli huan yei.	Stars

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Versión para Clarinete Bajo

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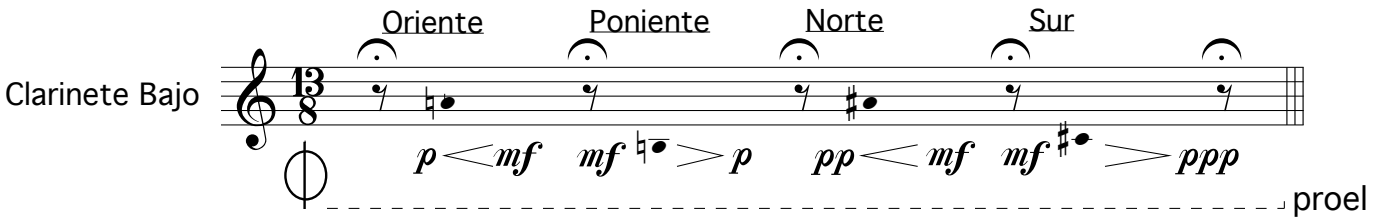
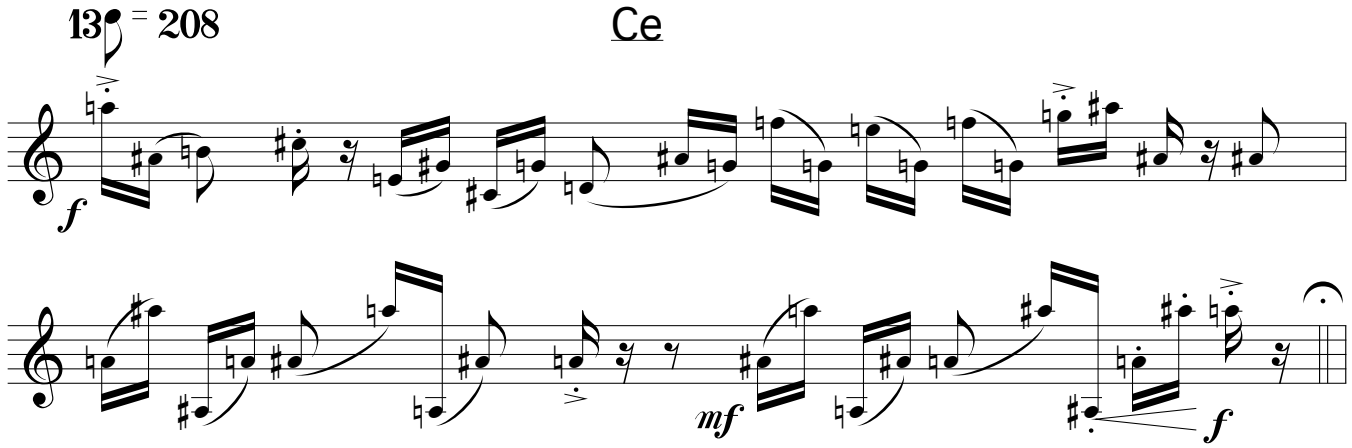
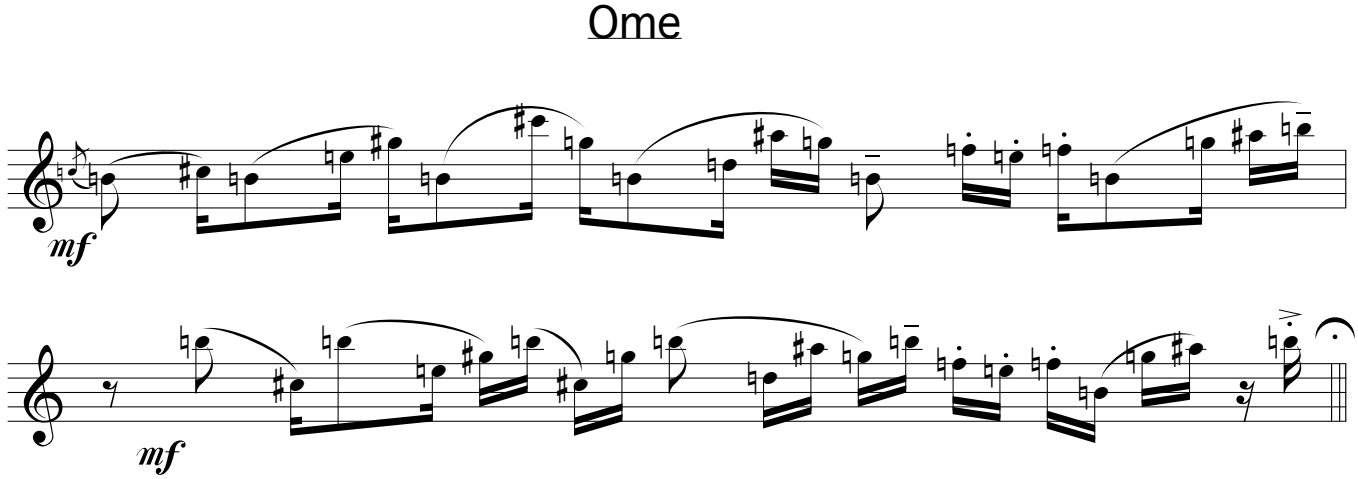
A manera de ritual mexica,
(saludando a los cuatro rumbos)
el clarinetista debe iniciar de pié
y emitir cada una de las siguientes notas
hacia el punto cardinal que le corresponde.

In the manner of a '*mexica*' ritual,
[Addressing the four compass points]
the clarinettist should (while being stand up)
play the following notes
each towards its correspondent Cardinal Point.







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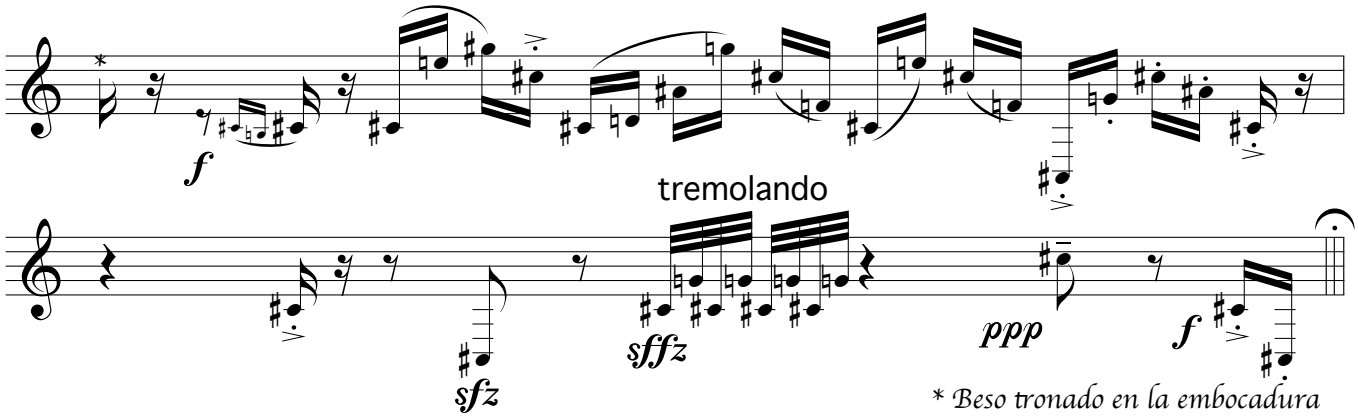
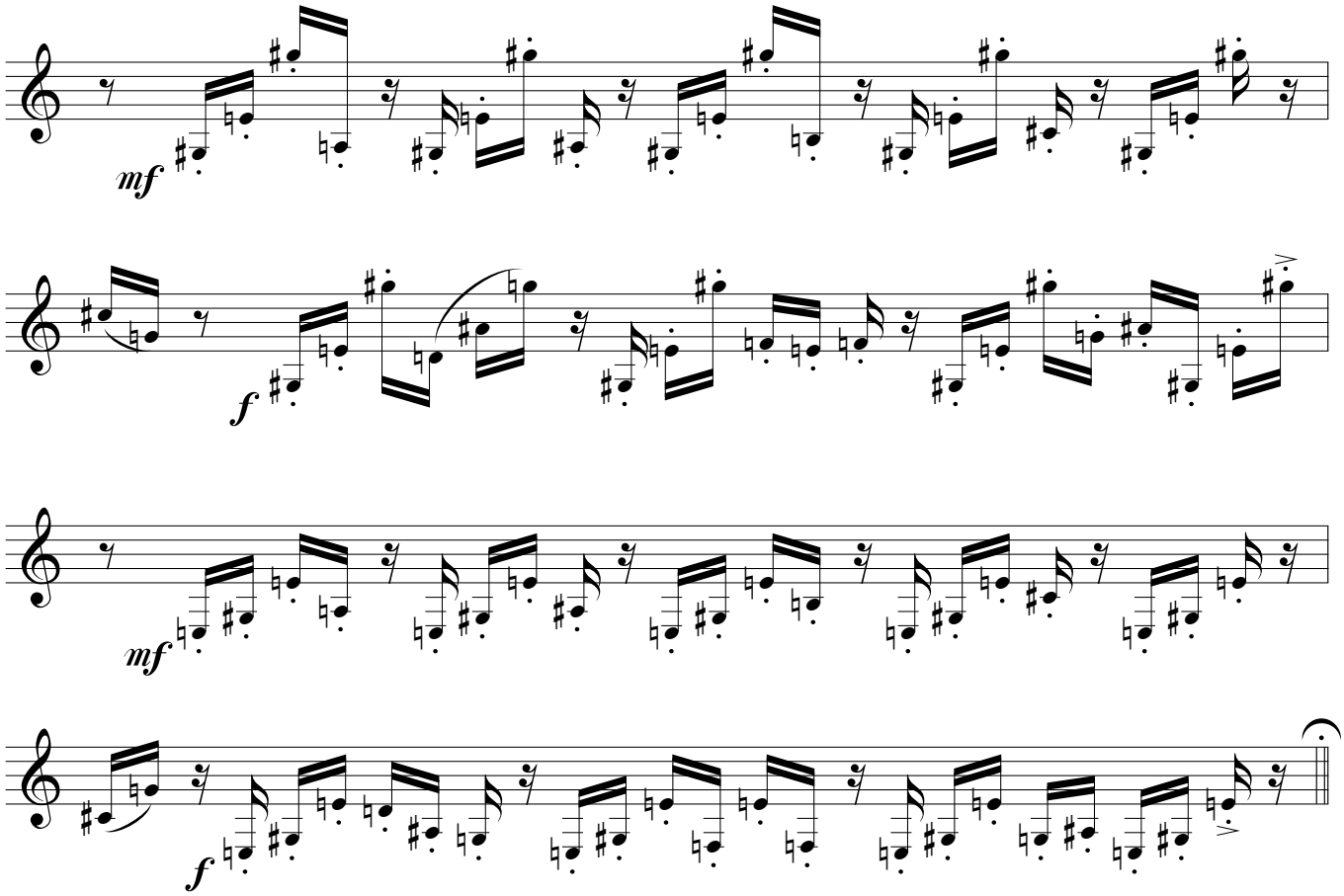
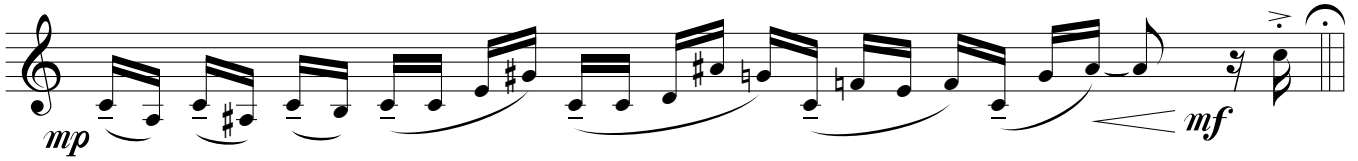
Yei



Nahui



Macuilli



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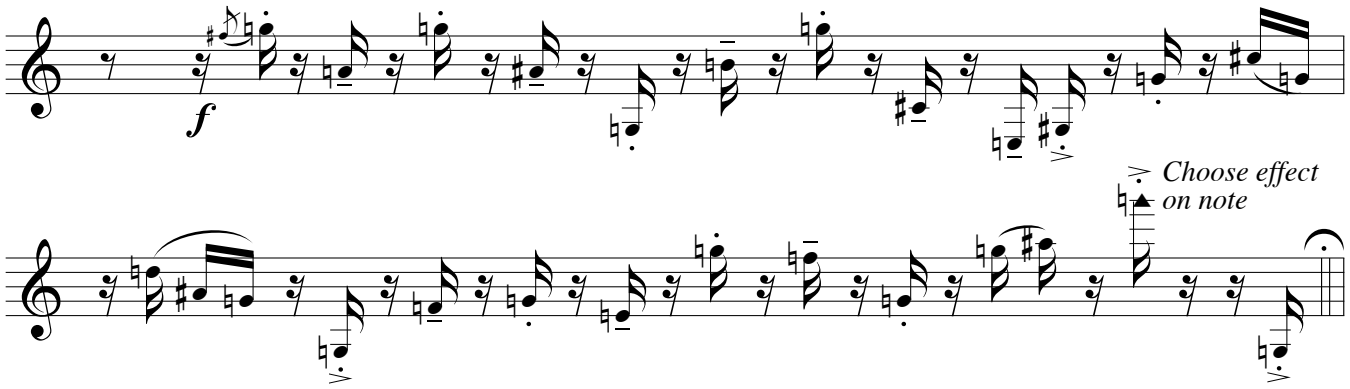
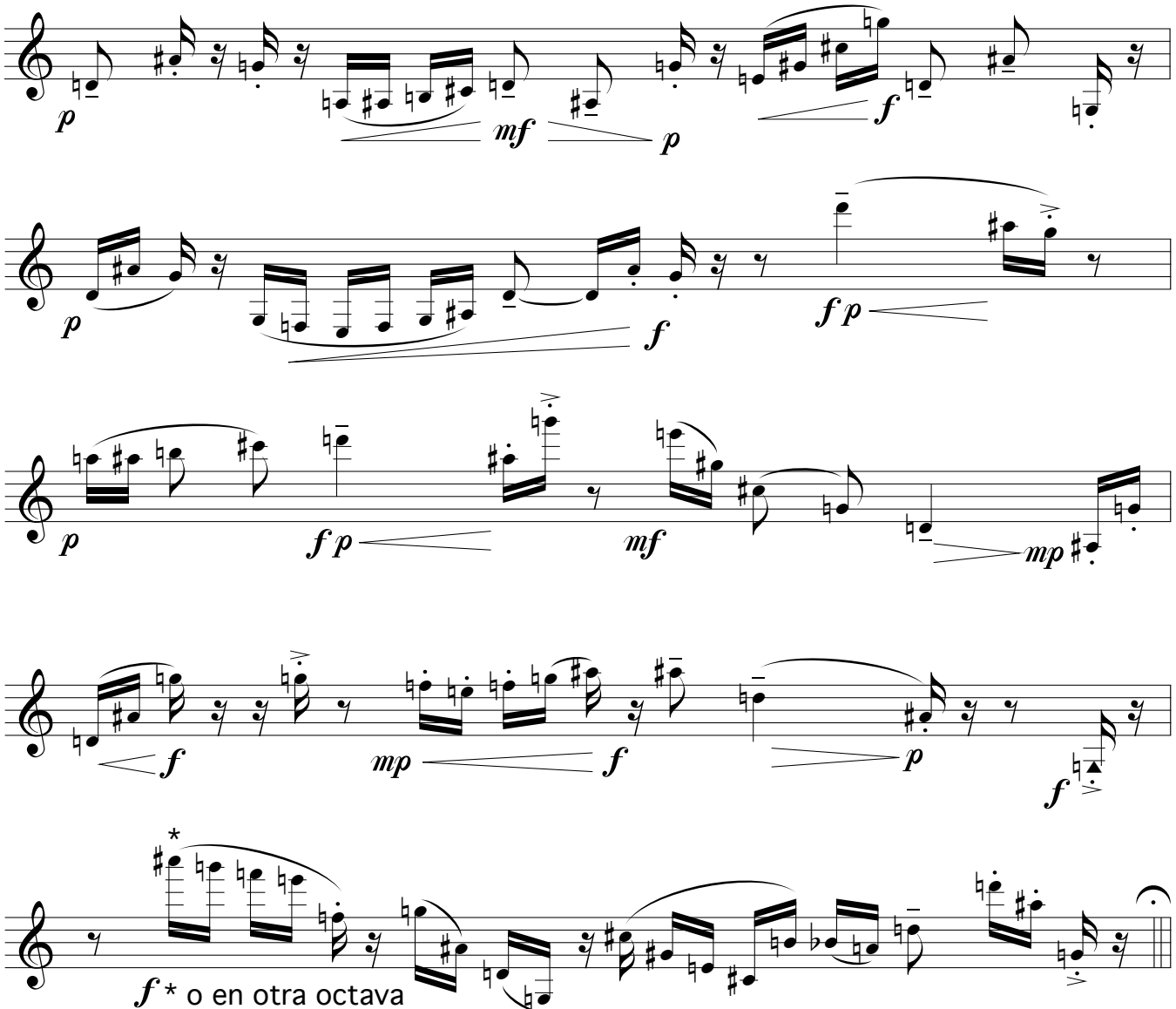
Chicuace



Chicome



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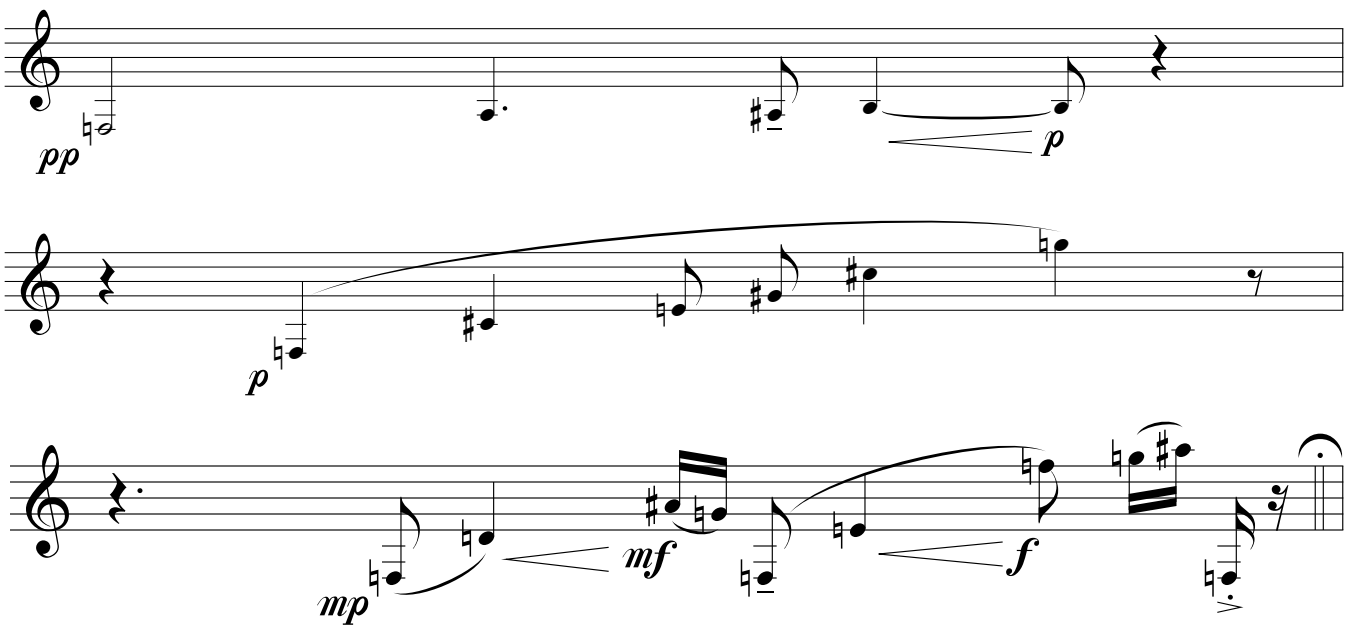
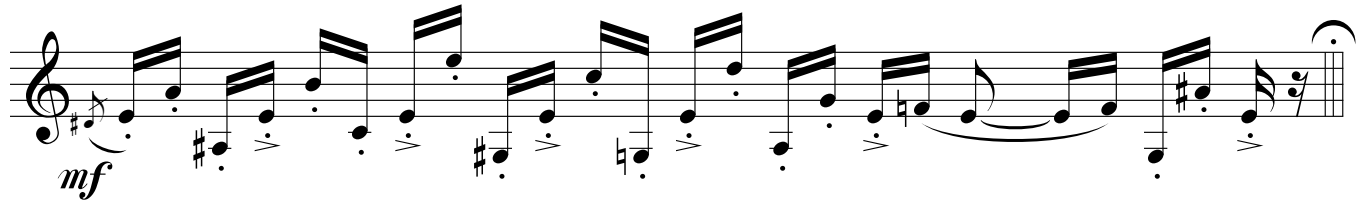
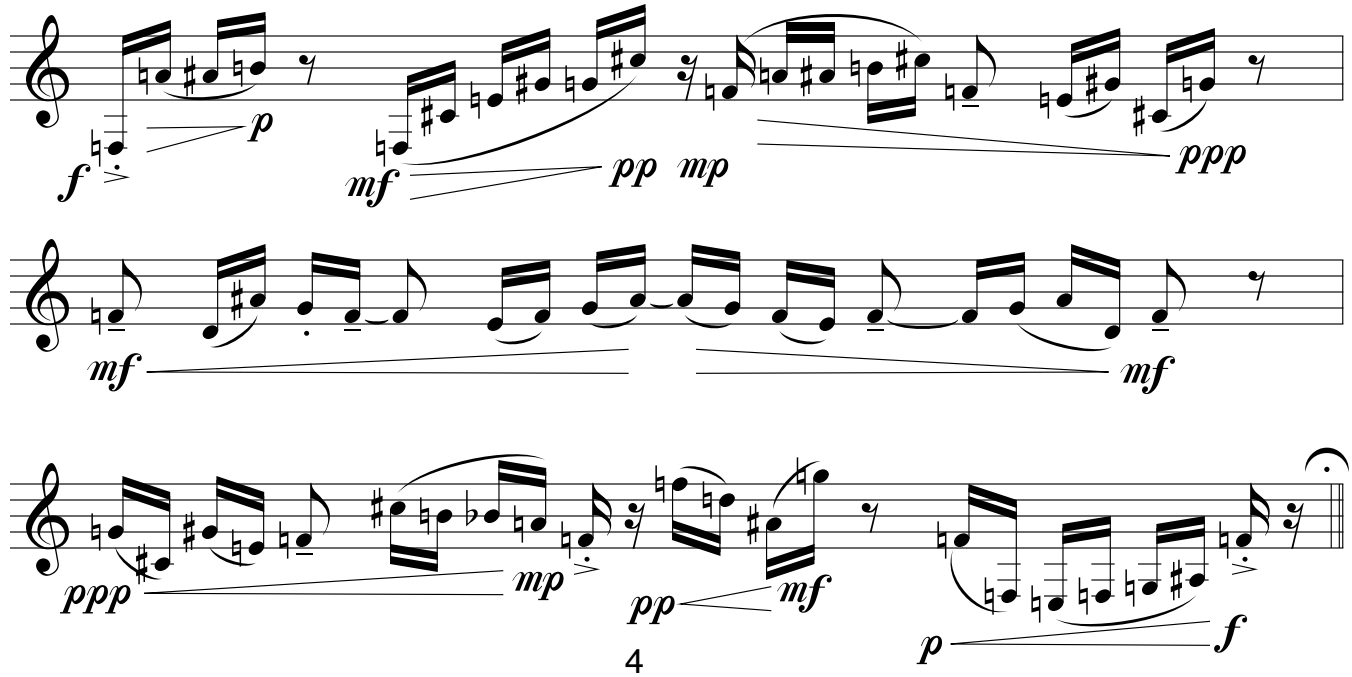
Chicueyi



Chicnahui



Matlactli



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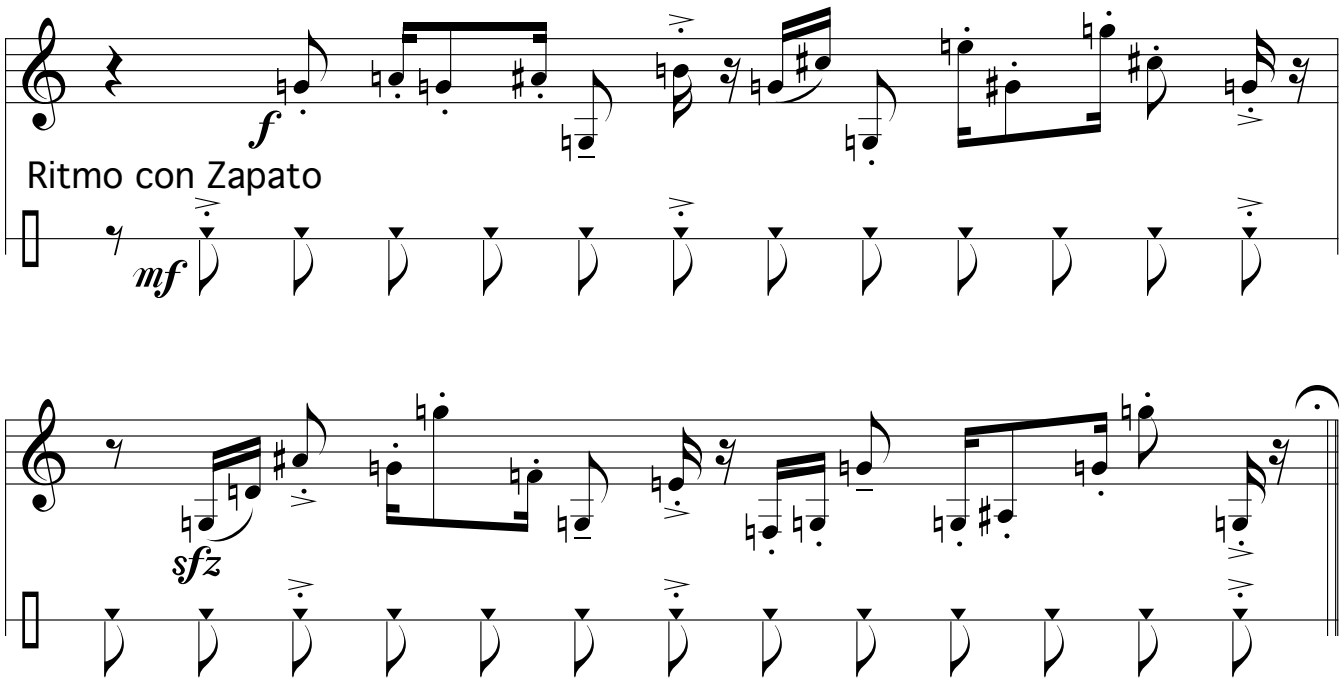
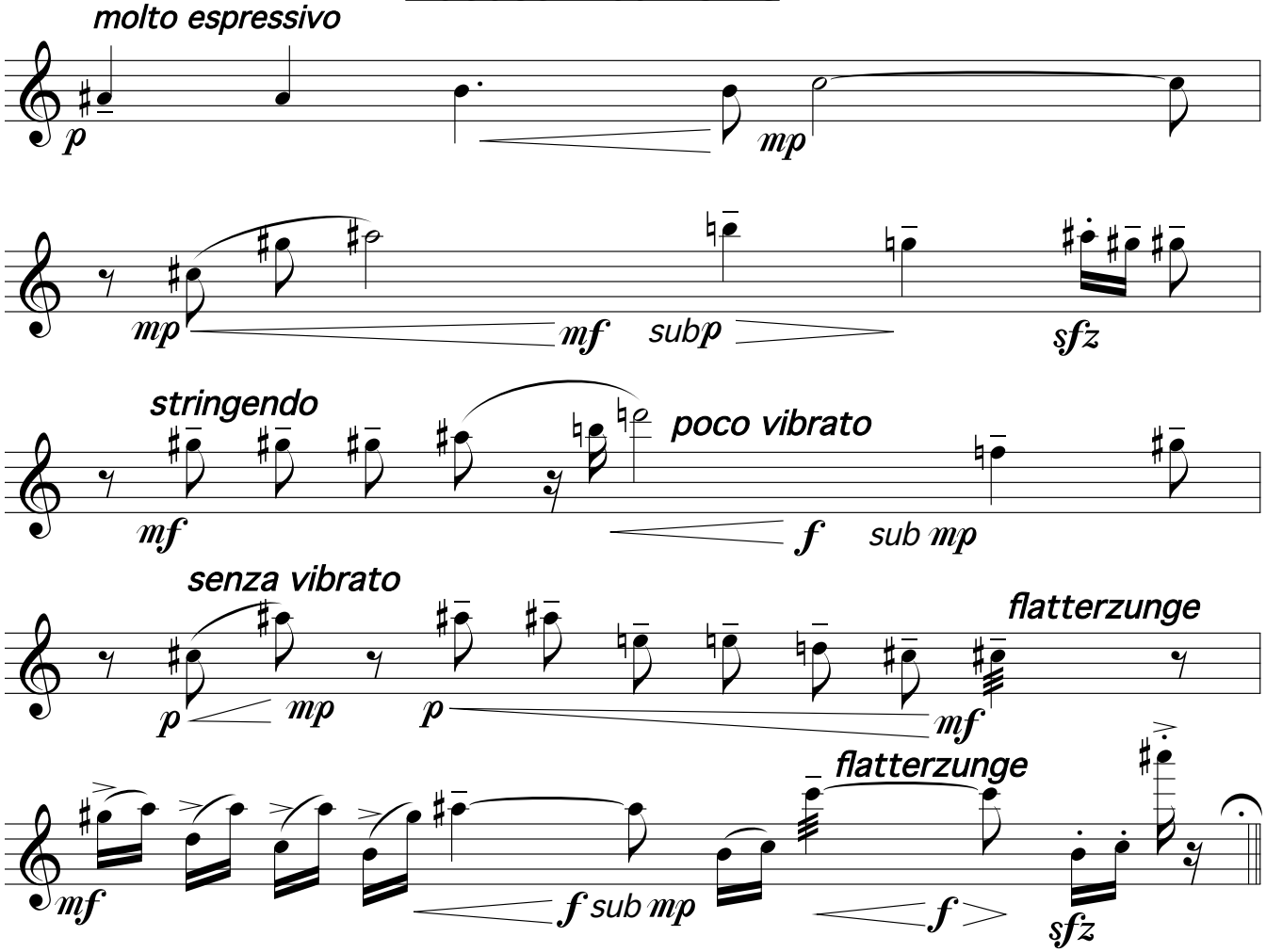
Matlactli Huan Ce



Matlactli Huan Ome



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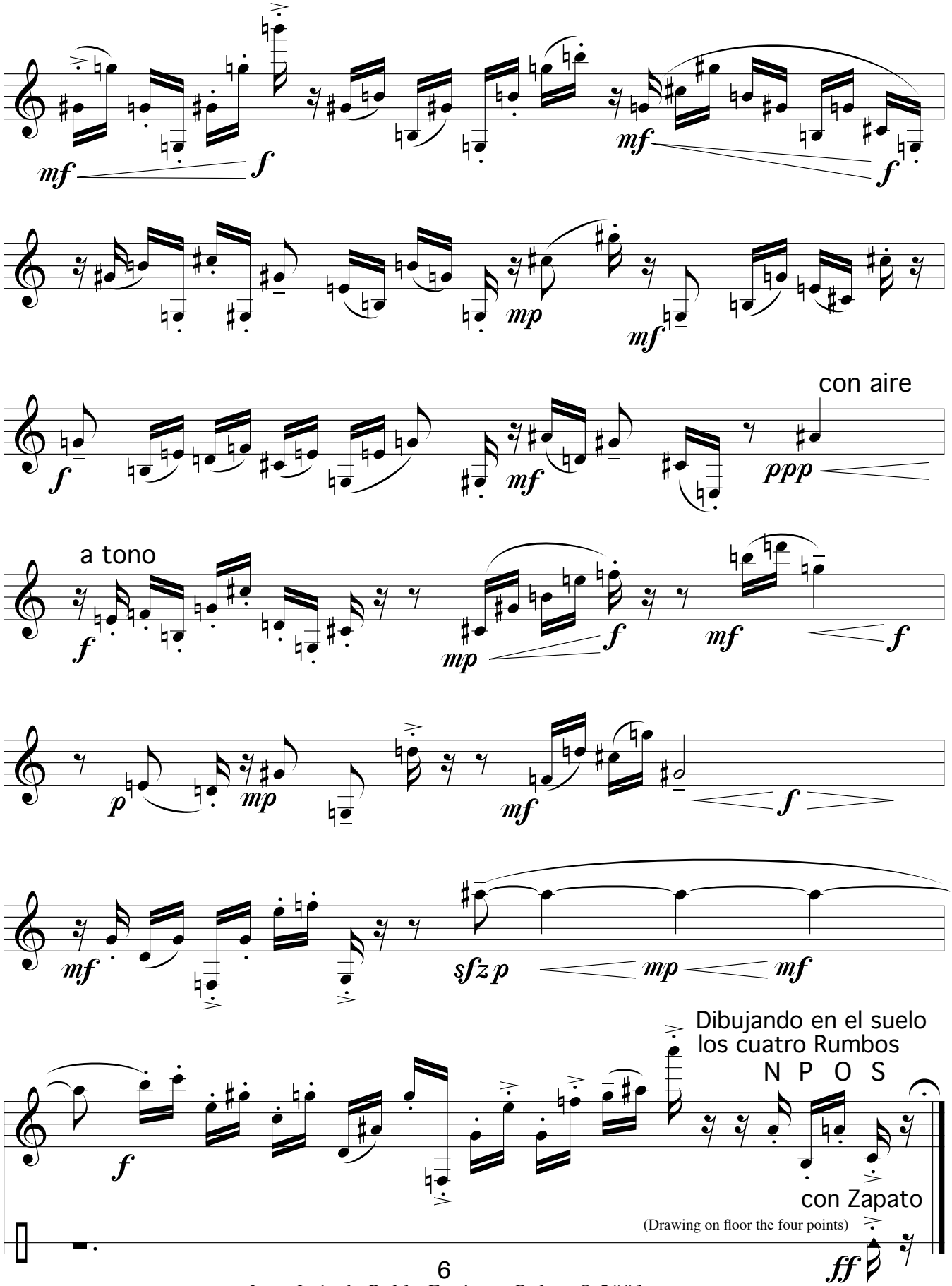
Matlactli Huan Yei



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